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*The National Security Working Group (NSWG) provides wide-spectrum coverage of issues like the Iranian threat, missile defense, sequestration, New START, events in Syria and more. We look forward to providing this newsletter to RSC members and welcome your input throughout the 113th Congress.*

### **Integrity: why it matters in National Security decisions (Rep. Franks)**

The American people should always remind themselves that the integrity of our government has a direct impact on our national security. The term "National Security" relates both national defense and foreign relations operations for the United States. It refers to the protection of a nation from attacks or other dangers by sustaining sufficient armed forces and encompasses economic security, monetary security, energy security, environmental security, military security, political security and security of energy and natural resources.

National security is the requirement of the state to defend our existence through the use of economic power, diplomacy, power projection and political power.

So, let's review the last week; the Internal Revenue Service has publicly admitted and apologized for targeting "political sounding" conservative groups. The Department of Justice secretly obtained the phone records of journalists at the wire service's news-gathering operations. And now discussions with Russia regarding the crucially important topic of arms in Syria have been complicated by the expulsion of a U.S. diplomat.

It isn't hard to see a trend here; these sequential failures have negatively impacted our government's ability to exert *credible* influence, and our ability to ensure national security is slowly being swept away.

These fiascos, paired with the mistakes made in properly identifying the Boston Bomber as well as the deadly Benghazi security failures and the blatant deception that followed, lead to a degraded public trust and has negatively impacted our government's integrity. This most certainly affects our ability to respond with an all-important virtue - *credibility* - during future national security threats.

The IRS and Associated Press scandals are hot news right now because the American people are rightly shocked over the breeches of trust and integrity. The Benghazi



***Reports of cover-ups surrounding the IRS, DOJ, Benghazi and Boston make us wonder: Is the current administration so busy surveilling U.S. citizens that they have ignored our most pressing national security concerns?***

revelations, to include bold-faced lies coming from top members of our administration, has rattled many American's trust and confidence in our ability to seek out terrorists, wherever they operate, and extinguish their ability to threaten our way of life.

Is it possible that the current administration is so busy surveilling our own people they are neglecting their most important national security concerns? Rather than merely condemning bad behavior, we are called to find solutions to these issues. Edward R. Murrow once said, "To be persuasive we must be believable; to be believable we must be credible; credible we must be truthful." How can we help improve the integrity and credibility of this government? Answering this question will be crucial to solving future national security problems.

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